

DD/R Chono

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Washington, 25 D. C.

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Copy 3
27 MAY 1963

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Reconnaissance Office

SUBJECT: U-2 Overflights in the Far East

1. The attached request for approval of blanket authority to cover priority targets in China should be considered in conjunction with the monthly forecast of air activities for June. The forecast forwarded for consolidation in the NRO forecast for June considers three missions previously approved for China, one mission previously approved for North Korea/Manchuria, and continued operation in Laos/North Viet Nam to complete coverage previously requested. In addition, COMOR requirements to search river areas in China for evidence of nuclear activity have been established in general terms as June, July, and August. The physical location of the search areas precludes combining this coverage with other specific target areas mentioned above in the CIA forecast.

2. The weather pattern anticipated during the summer months is such that we can expect small areas to open up; however, the possibility that long extended flight tracks being clear is remote. Therefore, it is difficult, if not impossible, to assure adequate coverage in a specific number of missions except for isolated high priority targets. The capability of covering other areas as targets of opportunity enroute to such targets as the MTR is unlikely. To aggressively pursue target requirements in China, Laos, North Viet Nam, Manchuria, and North Korea, it is extremely important that those involved in detailed

NRO review(s)
completed.

TOP SECRET

25X1A



Page 2

25X1

planning have the authority to operate wherever favorable weather conditions prevail. The concept of obtaining an 80% average for a full film load per mission must be degraded in the interest of obtaining adequate coverage of smaller areas due solely to weather factors. The ability to react quickly and take advantage of breaks in the weather will be greatly enhanced by such authority.

REF

HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.
Deputy Director
(Research)

Attachment -1

As noted above ()

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Signature recommended:

AAD/OSA

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